

Message Text

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54

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 USSS-00 NSAE-00 /031 W

----- 119637

O 161735Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4038

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLEET

S E C R E T CAIRO 3140

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: E AND E PLANNING

REF: STATE 204191

1. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ASSESS THREAT TO US RESIDENTS EXCEPT OVER VERY SHORT TERM. AT MOMENT, GOE IS DOING QUITE WELL IN CONTROLLING ANTI-US MEDIA PLAY AND LEVEL OF PUBLIC EMOTION. SADAT HAS NOT ATTACKED US AND, THANKFULLY, US RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IS NOT CENTER OF ATTENTION NOW. THIS IS HIGHLY UNSTABLE SITUATION, HOWEVER, AND IS AFFECTED BY NEW FACTORS VIRTUALLY EVERY DAY. AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESIDENTS HAVE THUS FAR REMAINED CALM; NEVERTHELESS, WORD THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE LEFT OR ARE CONSIDERING LEAVING HAS IN TURN INCREASED PRESSURE ON RESIDENT AMERICANS TO CONSIDER THEIR OWN DEPARTURE, AT LEAST OVER SHORT RUN. THIS HAS NOT BECOME A
SECRET

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PROBLEM YET, BUT IT IS NOTICEABLE. OUR BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT SITUATION DOES NOT REQUIRE EVACUATION NOW OR FOR NEXT TWO TO THREE DAYS.

2. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO INITIATE AN EVACUATION AT THIS TIME, WE ASSUME THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE MEANS OF EVACUATING OUR AMERICANS IN A HURRY WILL BE BY TRAIN OR BUS TO ALEXANDRIA AND FROM ALEXANDRIA BY SHIP. THIS SHIP WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO BE CHARTERED. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE HAD IN OBTAINING A SHIP FOR USG TOURISTS, WE BELIEVE URGENT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MEANS OF OBTAINING SECOND SHIP IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. THIS WOULD MEAN (A) CONTACTING SHIPPING AGENTS FOR INFORMATION ON DAY-TO-DAY AVAILABILITY OF VESSELS; (B) ENSURE THAT SOME SHIPPING UNDERWRITER WILL, WITHOUT DELAY, BE PREPARED TO INSURE ANY VESSEL THAT MAY BE CHARTERED FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTACT INSURER ON WEEKENDS; AND (C) IN CASE (B) FAILS, PREPAREDNESS OF USG TO GUARENTEE SHIP IMMEDIATELY.

3. LATEST ESTIMATE OF PRIVATE AMERICANS WHO WOULD REQUEST EVACUATION IS 800. IF WE ARE ALL FORCED TO LEAVE THE NUMBER WOULD BE 1100. THERE ARE STILL APPROXIMATELY 350 TOURISTS IN EGYPT, BUT WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL DEPART ON OCTOBER 18.

SMITH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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